

Aditya PRADHAN^a, Deliza RAI^a, Saroj K. BARIK^b and Arun CHETTRI^{a,*}: *Begonia panchtharensis* (*Begoniaceae*), a New Record to India from Sikkim, Eastern Himalaya

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Summary: We present a new record of *Begonia panchtharensis* S. Rajbh. (*Begoniaceae*) from the Eastern Himalaya in India. This record extends the known geographical distribution of this species from Nepal to India.

Begonia L. (*Begoniaceae*) is the sixth largest genus of the flowering plants (Frodin 2004) consisting of 1920 species (Hughes et al. 2015). The genus is represented by 56 species in India (Uddin 2007). During our recent floristic exploration we collected a specimen of *Begonia* from Thangsing (East Sikkim), India. On critical examination of morphological characters and perusal of literature, we identified this plant as *Begonia panchtharensis* S. Rajbh., characterized by having grooved petiole with red linear dots, six tepals in a female flower, and several large basal leaves arising directly from the rhizome (Rajbhandary et al. 2010a) (Fig. 1). *Begonia panchtharensis* was described from eastern Nepal, and has been considered to be narrow endemic to Nepal (Rajbhandary et al. 2010b). Therefore, this is a new record for flora of India, extending its geographical distribution eastward to India.

Begonia panchtharensis S. Rajbh. in Gard. Bull. Singapore 62(1): 147 (2010).

Type: E NEPAL. Panchthar, Tinubote, Sisire, Prangbung VDC (Village Development Committee) , 2240–2300 m alt., cultivated at

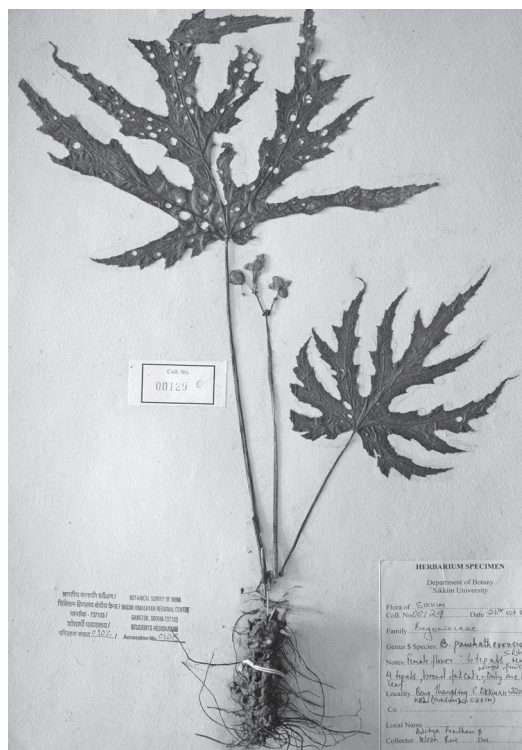


Fig 1. *Begonia panchtharensis* collected in Sikkim, India for the first time (A. Pradhan & D. Rai 0108, BSHC).

Eastern Nepal, 2 Oct. 2007, U. Thamsuhang s.n. (S. Rajbhandary S74) (E–holotype; KATH–isotype).

Distribution: E Nepal and India (Sikkim).

Flowering: September–October.

Specimen examined: INDIA. Sikkim, East district, Thangsing, 2200 m alt., 26 Oct. 2016, A. Pradhan & D. Rai

0108 (BSHC00129; Fig. 1).

Begonia panchtharensis in Sikkim grew on south-facing slope with *Begonia flaviflora* H. Hara, *B. josephii* A. DC., *Nephrolepis cordifolia* (L.) C. Presl, *Galium* spp., *Prunus cerasoides* Buch.-Ham. ex D. Don, *Thysanolaena maxima* (Roxb.) Kuntze, *Arisaema nepenthoides* (Wall.) Mart., *Urtica dioica* L., *Viola* spp., etc.

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plant specimen. The author is also thankful to the Head, Department of Botany, Sikkim University for providing necessary laboratory facilities.

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A. Pradhan^a, D. Rai^a, S. K. Barik^b, A. Chettri^a: シッキム新産の *Begonia panchtharensis* (シュウカイドウ科)

シュウカイドウ属 (ベゴニア; シュウカイドウ科) は被子植物で 6 番目に大きな属で、1900 種以上があり、インドには 56 種が知られている。最近になって、シッキム東部の Thangsing で得られた植物は、葉柄に赤い斑点をもつ溝があり、雌花に 6 個の萼片があり、数個の根

生葉をもつことから、*Begonia panchtharensis* S. Rajbh. と同定された。本種はこれまでネパール東部にのみ知られていたため、インドからは初めての報告となる。

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